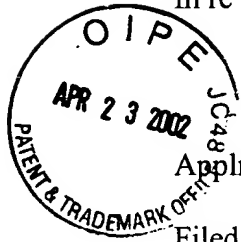


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: SIMMS



Appln. No.: 09/986,319

Filed: November 8, 2001

For: System and Method for Establishing  
Secure Communication Using a  
Shared Secret Key

Art Unit: 2131

Examiner: To be assigned

Atty. Docket: 16222.004

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APR 25 2002

Technology Center 2100

**Preliminary Amendment**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicants hereby request entry of the following amendment in the above-captioned application:

**In the Claims:**

The application as filed had two consecutive claims numbered 13. Please delete the first claim numbered 13.

(N.Er) The application as filed had two claims numbered 38, the first of which appears between claims 37 and 39, and the second of which appears between claims 52 and 54. Please delete the second claim numbered 38, which appears between claims 52 and 54.

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